



Zeeland Farm Services, Inc.®

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 13, 2009

**Governor's Executive Order Unsupported by Zeeland Farm Services**

Zeeland Farm Services is calling on the Legislature today to overturn Governor Jennifer Granholm's Executive Order, which would remove the authority from the Commission of Agriculture to hire and manage the director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA).

Under the Executive Order, which was issued on October 8, the appointment of the MDA director would be made by the Governor with advice and consent from the Senate, and the director would gain sole oversight of the department.

Zeeland Farm Services supports the current system, which provides the bipartisan Commission the authority to employ the MDA director, as well as work closely in partnership with the agricultural community, including the MDA, to help build strong policies and forward-thinking practices that support the industry. The Commission is autonomous, and provides a venue for input, comment and transparency to the activities of the MDA. Under the Governor's new approach, the Commission of Agriculture's role would be limited simply to providing a forum for gathering information.

Zeeland Farm Services is opposed to any action that could disturb the continuity and consistency of any programs affecting Michigan's agriculture business. We also see no cost reduction or other benefit that would help Agriculture create jobs for Michigan's citizens.

*Zeeland Farm Services, Inc. is a family-owned and operated business with over 55 years of service to the agricultural and transportation industries. With over 200 employees, ZFS endeavors to provide the best possible customer service and to offer quality products and services at competitive prices.*

\*\*\*\*\*